What is Claimed

1. A fifth wheel hitch assembly for mounting on a towing vehicle and receiving a king pin of a trailer, comprising:

a base assembly;

a head assembly carried on said base assembly;

a jaw assembly carried on said head assembly, said jaw assembly including a jaw body displaceable between an open position and a closed position and a control handle connected to said jaw body;

means for locking said jaw body in said closed position in engagement with the king pin of the trailer; and

a king pin indicator for defeating said locking means when the king pin is not fully and properly seated in the head and jaw assemblies.

2. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 1 wherein said locking means includes a locking bracket carried by said head assembly and a lock for engaging both said locking bracket and said control handle.

3. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 2, wherein said king pin indicator includes an elongated body having a king pin engaging end, a lock engaging end and an intermediate pivot point.

4. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 3, further including a spring connected between said king pin indicator and said head assembly for biasing said king pin indicator into a home position, said king pin indicator defeating said locking means when in said home position.

5. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 4, wherein said intermediate pivot point includes an aperture in said elongated body and a first pivot pin for pivotally connecting said king pin indicator to said head assembly.

6. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 5, wherein said head assembly includes a skid plate and a mounting platform.

7. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 6, further including a second pivot pin, said second pivot pin pivotally connecting said jaw body to said mounting platform.

8. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 7, wherein said first pivot pin pivotally connects said king pin indicator to said mounting platform.

9. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 1, wherein said king pin indicator includes an elongated body having a king pin engaging end, a lock engaging end and an intermediate pivot point.

10. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 9, further including a spring connected between said king pin indicator and said head assembly for biasing said king pin indicator into a home position, said king pin indicator defeating said locking means when in said home position.

11. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 10, wherein said intermediate pivot point includes an aperture in said elongated body and a

first pivot pin for pivotally connecting said king pin indicator to said head assembly.

12. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 1, further including a mounting assembly for carrying said base assembly.

13. A fifth wheel hitch assembly for mounting to a towing vehicle and receiving a king pin of a trailer, comprising:

a base assembly;

a head assembly carried on said base assembly;

a jaw assembly carried on said head assembly, said jaw assembly including a jaw body displaceable between an open position and a closed position;

a lock for locking said jaw body in said closed position; and

a king pin indicator displaceable between a home position in which said king pin indicator prevents engagement of said lock and a king pin sensing position in which said lock may be engaged to lock said jaw body in said closed position.

14. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 13, wherein said head assembly includes a locking bracket and said lock engages said locking bracket and said jaw assembly when locking said jaw body in said closed position.

15. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 14, wherein said jaw assembly includes a control handle connected to said jaw body.

16. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 15, wherein said locking bracket includes a first aperture and said control handle includes a second aperture, said lock engaging said first and second apertures when locking said jaw body in said closed position.

17. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 16, wherein said king pin indicator includes an elongated body having a king pin engaging end, a lock engaging end and an intermediate pivot point.

18. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 17, further including a spring connected between said king pin indicator and said head assembly for biasing said king pin indicator into said home position, said king pin indicator defeating said lock when in said home position.

19. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 18, wherein said pivot point includes an aperture in said elongated body and a first pivot pin for pivotally connecting said king pin indicator to said head assembly.

20. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 19, wherein said lock engaging end of said king pin indicator at least partially blocks said first and second apertures when said king pin indicator is in said home position.

21. The fifth wheel hitch assembly of claim 13, further including a mounting assembly that carries said base assembly.

22. A method of indicating proper seating of a king pin in a head assembly and a jaw assembly of a fifth wheel hitch assembly, comprising:

detecting if the king pin is fully and properly seated in said head and jaw assemblies; and

preventing locking of the jaw assembly in a closed or towing position if full and proper seating of the king pin is not detected.